



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE · NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear David:

This is to nominate an outstanding candidate for the editorship of Science, namely: Arnold Thackray, professor and founding chairman of the Department of History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania.


I have known Dr. Thackray for about twelve years, and worked closely with him on the planning and editing of a conference "Toward a Metric of Science" which was managed by the Center for Advanced Studies in Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. This work which is a social, scientific and humanistic perspective on the scientific enterprise is typical of the unusual intellectual breadth that Dr. Thackray would bring to the role. His manifest credentials should inspire great confidence on the part of all of the different sectors of the Association. He combines an unusual degree of familiarity with the style and substance of 'hard' scientific investigation with the experience and perspectives of a historian and behavioral scientist. He has a record of skill and accomplishment from his editorship of ISIS. I also have the deepest affection and admiration for him as an individual and scholar.

Dr. Thackray is very deeply involved right now in a national center for the history of chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania. However, in private conversations with me he has indicated his interest in exploring the possibility of a career change; and I commend him to you as a candidate that you cannot afford to overlook in your quest for the very best.

It is unusual to find someone with such profound scholarly commitments express such an interest; and especially when this is coupled with high levels both of personability and analytical acumen he must rank very high indeed on any scale of potential candidates. His interest in, and competence for, the proposed role would be very closely connected with the perspectives on the organization of science that have been at the center of his own scholarly work.

He is well known within his own specialty; Bob Merton at Columbia also knows him intimately and could I am sure add still more to these perspectives.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lederberg